AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. A method of screening a Short Message Service (SMS) or Multimedia Message Service (MMS) call in an SMS or MMS center, comprising the steps of:

responsive to receipt of an SMS or MMS call in a SMS or MMS center for serving a calling party of said call, performing originating screening using data supplied by said calling party, for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call; and

responsive to determining in said the originating SMS or MMS center that said calling party may attempt to complete said call, performing terminating screening using data supplied by said called party, for determining in a SMS or MMS center for serving a called party of said call whether said called party of said call is willing to accept calls from said calling party; and

wherein the step of performing terminating screening comprises the step of determining whether said called party has allowed calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party;

wherein the step of performing terminating screening comprises the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of determining whether said called party has screened calls from said calling party.

CLAIM 2 (original):

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the steps of:

determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 3 (original):

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the steps of:

determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said called party.

CLAIM 4 (original):

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing for geographic allowability of a call to said called party in accordance with a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 5 (original):

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the steps of:

testing whether said calling party may complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer; and

if said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer, determining whether said called party is a roamer and blocking said call if said called party is a roamer.

CLAIM 6 (original):

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether a calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing whether a destination number of said called party is in a list of numbers to which said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls.

CLAIM 7 (original):

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing whether said calling party may originate a service type of said call.

CLAIM 8 (original):

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls comprises the step of testing whether the keyword, subject, title, or URL of a web page of said SMS or MMS call is on a list of call types which said called party does not wish to receive.

CLAIM 9 (original):

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether the service type of said call is one which said called party is willing to accept.

CLAIM 10 (original):

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether a content classification of said call is one which said called party is willing to accept.

CLAIM 11 (original):

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of determining whether said call identifies a merchant from which said called party does not wish to receive SMS or MMS calls.

CLAIM 12 (canceled)

CLAIM 13 (currently amended):

13. In a Short Message Service (SMS) or Multimedia Message Service (MMS) center, apparatus for screening an SMS or MMS call, comprising:

in a SMS or MMS center for serving a calling party of said call, means, responsive to receipt of an SMS or MMS call, performing originating screening using data supplied by said calling party, for determining whether said calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call; and

means, responsive to determining that said calling party may attempt to complete said call, comprising a SMS or MMS center for serving a called party of said call, performing terminating screening using data supplied by said called party, for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party;

said means for determining if said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party, comprising means for determining whether said called party has allowed calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party;

said means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party further comprises means for determining whether said called party has screened calls from said calling party.

CLAIM 14 (original):

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises:

means for determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

means for rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 15 (original):

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises:

means for determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

means for rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said called party.

CLAIM 16 (original):

16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises means for testing for geographic allowability of a call to said called party in accordance with a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 17 (original):

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises:

means for testing whether said calling party may complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer; and

means, responsive to determining that said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer, for determining whether said called party is a roamer and blocking said call if said called party is a roamer.

CLAIM 18 (original):

18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls comprises means for testing whether the keyword, subject, title, or URL of a web page of said SMS or MMS call is on a list of call types which said called party does not wish to receive.

CLAIM 19 (original):

19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for determining whether said call identifies a merchant from which said called party does not wish to receive SMS or MMS calls.

CLAIM 20 (original):

20. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for testing whether a language of said call is one which said called party is willing to receive.

CLAIM 21 (new):

21. A method of screening a Short Message Service (SMS) call in an SMS center, comprising the steps of:

responsive to receipt of an SMS call in a SMS center for serving a calling party of said call, performing originating screening using data supplied by said calling party, for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call; and

responsive to determining in the originating SMS center that said calling party may attempt to complete said call, performing terminating screening using data supplied by said called party, for determining in a SMS center for serving a called party of said call whether said called party of said call is willing to accept calls from said calling party;

wherein the step of performing terminating screening comprises the step of determining whether said called party has allowed calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party;

wherein the step of performing terminating screening comprises the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party

comprises the step of determining whether said called party has screened calls from said calling party.